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TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1904.

## To-day's Election.

To-day we of Richmond shall have our first primary election under the new Constitution, which provides for a restricted ballot.

There is great doubt as to what the result will be, but it is conceded on all hands that the number of voters has been greatly diminished, and that the corresponding responsibility of the remaining voters is thereby increased to do all that they can to furnish the city with an efficient and capable government.

This is no time for shirking the duty of responsibility of voting. Every citizen is under a moral obligation to go to the polls and vote, and we hope that in making their selection the participants in this primary will be governed solely by the rule of merit.

Whether a voter will or not, he cannot escape the responsibility of choosing for his fellow-citizens, and the only way to exercise this power with honor and credit is to lay aside all personal feelings, no matter how strong they may be, and to vote for the best men.

No conscientious man would recommend his best friend to fill a public office when he knew full well that the candidate for whom he voted was incompetent. Let us quit ourselves like men and show that force and earnestness in selecting the governors of our city that we would show in our private business. With such a spirit in control, the future of the city has nothing to fear.

## Will Bryan Boil?

Mr. William J. Bryan hired a hall in Chicago and on Saturday night delivered an address on the subject of the New York platform. Mr. Bryan declared that the platform was dishonest and fit only for a dishonest party. He did not mention Judge Parker by name, but he intimated that this platform was made for Parker, and that if Parker should be the nominee of the party, he would ask that the St. Louis Convention model its platform after the New York declaration, and that this would mean that the party was mortgaged before hand to "the people that are now using the government as a private asset and plundering the people at will." Mr. Bryan went still further and said that it would be a disgrace to the Democratic party for it to adopt such a platform as this, and that "it ought to defeat an aspirant for Democratic nomination any man who would be willing to have it go forth as a declaration of his views on public questions."

But suppose the St. Louis Convention should take a different view, suppose it should dare to disagree with Mr. Bryan and nominate Judge Parker on the New York platform, what sort of a position would Mr. Bryan then occupy? Would he be able, after this declaration, to come out and support the national ticket? Could he with any sort of consistency advise his followers to support a platform which he had already denounced as disgraceful and could he advise his friends to vote for a man for the presidency who he had denounced as having sold himself to the corporation?

Few men in this country have been more bitter against bolters than Mr. Bryan, but it seems a very plain proposition that Mr. Bryan is burning his bridges behind him and is going to bolt if Parker is nominated by the New York Convention. Mr. Bryan's course is such as to destroy whatever influence he might otherwise have had in the St. Louis Convention. The delegates to the convention cannot take counsel of a man who has virtually served notice that he will bolt unless he can have his way.

## The Value of Beauty.

Redfern, the evangelist of fashion, arrived from Paris on Saturday last and left next morning for St. Louis, where he goes to superintend the arrangement of his exhibit.

In an interview with a New York reporter, he said that it would be generations before any other people could rival the French in the matter of dress, for the reason that love of dress and sense of proportion and fitness are innate with the French people, who from their birth are trained to deftness and whose sense of the beautiful is cultivated by the conditions of their environment. "Paris is a city of beauty," continued Mr. Redfern, "and it is a city where beautiful clothes are worn on the street and everywhere in public. There are many reasons why one sees the best dressed women in the world in Paris. All this is a part of the education of the worker, from the designer down to the humblest employee. The French women possess an innate taste for dress and she has skillful fingers."

But Mr. Redfern pays us the compliment of saying that the American woman, next to the French woman, has the truest feeling for what is beautiful and appropriate in dress; that she goes to Paris for her clothes and leaves Paris the best dressed woman in the world, better than the French woman, because

she has more money to expend on dress. She is unlimited in the matter of expending money, and that is the dressmaker's great opportunity. "I love to work for the wealthy American," concludes Mr. Redfern, "because I can then carry out unhampered the highest principles of art in dress and I am rewarded by the grace that most American women lend to the finest productions of my establishments."

There are other rewards, and it is apparent that Mr. Redfern is making the grand-stand play for the continuation of his American trade.

It is a poor occupation for any man or woman to make dress the chief object, or even one of the chief objects, of life. There are many people who think more of the clothes that one wears than of the man or woman who wears them. There are other people who, as a witty notable has said, allow their clothes to wear them around.

But dress is by no means to be despised. Shakespeare makes one of his most conservative characters say, "Costly their habit as their purse can buy." "For the appearance of it proclaims the man." It is a comfortable thing to be dressed in good clothes, that is to say in becoming clothes and appropriate clothes, whatever the occasion may be. No true gentleman or lady likes to be conspicuous in public by being overdressed or by being underdressed, or by being unfashionable, or by Lord himself taught that when one attends a social function he should wear the dress which society prescribes. Apart from all this, there is art in dress-making and dressing, and art is always to be encouraged. Women, especially, can ill afford to neglect this particular art. It is a duty which every woman owes to herself and to society to make herself look as well as possible on all occasions, and becoming clothes and appropriate clothes have a great deal to do with a woman's appearance.

But there is a practical side to Mr. Redfern's suggestion. He boasts that Paris is a city of beauty, a city where beautiful clothes are worn. Paris is indeed a beautiful city, and beauty is largely its stock in trade. People from all parts of the world go to Paris to see its beauty, and they pay liberally for the privilege. Paris is a beauty show every day in the year, and a show that always draws and always gives delight, for a thing of beauty is a joy forever.

Why should not Richmond imitate, as far as she can, the example of Paris? Why should not Richmond become the most beautiful city in the South? She has the situation, and all that she needs is the ornamentation. It would take a snug sum of money to give to Richmond this distinction, but it would be a splendid investment in more ways than one. If Richmond should become the most beautiful city in the South, it would unquestionably become the most popular city, the most popular resort for visitors, and its beauty show would yield a handsome revenue year by year.

## The South's Progress.

The United States Geological Survey makes a wonderful exhibit for the South in the matter of mineral production. It is shown that between 1880 and 1902, a period of twenty-two years, the value of the mineral products of the sixteen States classed as "Southern," increased from \$35,416,787 to \$233,225,323, nearly seven-fold.

The following table, taken from the official report of the United States Geological Survey for 1902, graphically presents the phenomenal record:

States.	1880.	1901.	1902.
Alabama.....	\$3,413,038	\$30,856,727	\$50,442,458
Arkansas.....	161,855	2,701,387	3,451,580
California.....	34,450	3,417,671	2,811,487
Florida.....	1,770,735	5,018,104	5,825,155
Georgia.....	4,638	4,242,981	4,670,861
Indiana Ter.....	3,289,976	9,014,881	14,229,903
Kentucky.....	615,708	9,068,000	10,966,708
Louisiana.....	6,227,002	12,245,000	15,705,581
Maryland.....	9,225,000	21,018,383	27,196,008
Mississippi.....	715,730	1,883,770	1,724,161
N. Carolina.....	279,677	431,309	257,559
S. Carolina.....	1,123,180	2,634,947	2,567,559
Tennessee.....	2,581,311	15,780,139	21,308,767
Texas.....	925,861	6,629,346	9,475,946
Virginia.....	2,574,840	15,688,129	22,888,381
W. Virginia.....	4,697,549	51,401,304	51,068,366

During the same period the coal storage of Alabama increased from 322,931 to 10,351,670 tons. Virginia's tonnage increased from 40,520 to 3,795,000 tons, and West Virginia's from 1,724,570 to 24,748,658 tons.

In the production of pig iron the growth was even larger. Alabama's production having increased in value from \$1,500,000 in 1880 to nearly \$3,000,000 in 1902, while Virginia's increased from less than a half million in 1880, to nearly \$2,000,000 in 1902. Much the same proportion of increase is noted in the cities of Tennessee and of West Virginia, and in other branches of industry, notably in the manufacture of cotton and of wool. The record of growth has been wonderful. The South is enormously rich in material sources and the development of these has only just begun. It is the coming section and will in time no doubt be the richest section of the whole country.

## The Mann Law.

In reply to some remarks of ours concerning the Mann law, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says that its information with regard to the operation of the law is not in accord with ours.

"From all that we can gather, the law is not successfully enforced, and blind tigers are springing up in the rural districts where saloons were before the law was enacted. But, of course, this is a matter largely of hearsay, and one that it is difficult to verify."

"Whether the country people would vote to adopt the law if an election were held for the purpose, must be a matter of pure conjecture. It is a fact, however, that the law itself is in direct conflict with the principle that the people should locally pass upon the sale of liquor. It repudiates that principle and substitutes for it a crude, undemocratic and impracticable method of regulating the traffic and of ascertaining public sentiment as regards it."

Our information comes especially from

a distinguished Democratic leader in Virginia, who is not, and has never been, in favor of prohibition. He has traveled extensively in the State, and has taken occasion to feel the public pulse on this subject. He is entirely satisfied from what he has learned that the Mann law is very popular.

But there is another reason for believing that the law is popular. If there had been any very decided sentiment against it, does it not stand to reason that an effort would have been made to repeal it? The law has been in operation for several years, and the Legislature has been almost continuously in session since it went into effect; yet nobody has even suggested a repeal of the law.

But if the law is as bad as the Virginian-Pilot says it is, and if it is a farce, is our contemporary in favor of repealing it? That is a question which the Democratic party, and not Judge Mann, must meet. The Democratic party is responsible for the Mann law, and will be responsible for it so long as that party is in power, and so long as the law remains in force.

If the party is not in favor of the law it should come out for its repeal in the next platform. Is our Norfolk contemporary in favor of such a plank in the State platform of 1906?

## The Cotton Fields.

Mr. Daniel J. Sully, the man who recently came into notoriety by bullying the cotton market and afterwards falling for several millions, says that during the remainder of his life he will employ his energy and experience in an effort to benefit the cotton growers of the South by introducing modern methods which will bring about a higher culture of the staple, together with a more scientific method of handling cotton, from the time it leaves the farmer until it reaches the consumer.

We do not know what he will be able to accomplish in this direction, but there is a fine opportunity for somebody to exploit the cotton fields of the South. The lands are by no means all employed from year to year in cotton culture. The demand for raw cotton grows apace, and Europeans are making strenuous efforts to promote the cotton growing industry on that side of the ocean. But the South is the natural cotton field, and every acre of cotton land should be cultivated to the best advantage. It would be a hard matter now for the South to overstock the world with raw cotton.

## The Constitution Forever.

Mr. John S. Wise's malicious endeavor to overthrow the Virginia Constitution has ended in dismal failure and contempt.

The United States Supreme Court dismissed the case in short order, and said in so many words that the prayer of the petitioners was absurd, as, indeed, it was.

But Mr. Wise does not care. The case gave him the opportunity of pocketing a good fee, and, moreover, of making several spiteful stump speeches against his kith and kin in Virginia. He ranted like a madman, but his maledictions harmed nobody but himself. In point of fact, he has done Virginia a good service in putting her new Constitution to the test, and we are quite content with the issue. The only complainants are the poor negroes, who have been taxed so heavily and so mercilessly to pay the cost.

It is now clear that a very conservative policy will be pursued in the matter of regrading and widening the streets in the burnt district of Baltimore. The difficulties in the way are formidable, and include the matter of time and money, too. Many property-owners wish to rebuild at once. Condemnation proceedings would be tedious and costly.

Richmond knows "how it is herself," having undergone a somewhat similar experience at the evacuation fire. True, Baltimore is losing, as Richmond lost, a great opportunity to improve her streets, but the business question is, whether it can afford to avail itself of the present opportunity. It seems that she cannot do so to the full extent.

The street cars of Richmond are now beginning to feel the beneficial results of park travel. On Sunday all of them were crowded.

The parks are looking well; they are at their best at this season of the year. They should be kept up to the highest standard, and constant warfare from their keepers should be waged upon those who deface the property or interfere with the comfort of other visitors.

There is a trash nuisance in the parks, as in the city, which we heartily wish we could see abated.

Miss Pauline Hardin, Kentucky's politician in petticoats, is to be married. For several years she has held the position of State Librarian, and no one was able to beat her out for the office. The only way to get her out is to marry her, and that a gallant man has determined to do. Mr. Solomon L. Van Meter, a wealthy landholder and a widower, met the pretty politician and fell in love with her, and succeeded in gaining her consent to marry him. The forthcoming marriage

## WEDDING PRESENTS.

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has been announced by Miss Hardin's parents.

"A Voter" puts to us the following question:

"I notice you state poll taxes must be paid by May 7th in order to be able to vote for President. Do you mean taxes for 1905 or 1907?"

Persons who were registered in 1903 or 1902 will have to pay only the poll tax of \$1.50 for 1903.

Of course, it is the duty of every man who can vote to-day to do so. It was the duty of a great many men to have put themselves in voting condition for to-day who didn't do it.

The Parker boom is simply overrunning North Carolina, and that is where they were saying some time ago Mr. Hoar was wonderfully strong.

There is sense in making Parker, the silent man, the Democratic nominee. The last several the party has had were so much the other way.

Some mighty embarrassing questions are liable to be asked candidates in these days of reform and independence.

Colonel Bryan's forthcoming bolt has already been discounted and now it won't count for much.

Miss Gould was pleased with Richmond and Richmond was delighted with Miss Gould.

If the Pope does not want to see the President of France he needn't to.

Well, we will all know who is elected if we sit up late enough to-night.

Spring fever will be the prevailing disease for a few days yet to come.

Lucky man was Mr. John Wise if he got all of his fee in advance.

The trouble with this dry April is that it kicks up too much dust.

Vote early, very early, if you have planked down your poll tax.

With a Comment or Two.

The young scamp in New York, who passed himself off as J. Ogden Goelet, Jr., and in that guise won the love of a pretty girl, the daughter of a millionaire, who was about to be married, was convicted of forgery in the third degree.

He did the job in seven days, and the "pretty telegraph operator's" heart was won more by the wealth and social standing of the Goelets than by the merit of the scamp. The girl was about to marry. One naturally hesitates to decide which is the manner of the two—"the young scamp" or the "pretty telegraph operator" who had a heart for sale—Petersburg Index-Appel.

Brigham H. Roberts can't be ruled or overruled—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

And he has three wives too. Think of it.

There is one good reason for thinking that Mr. Bryan will not bolt if Judge Parker is nominated.

That reason is founded on the fact that Mr. Bryan doesn't like to flock by himself.

But what about his Chicago speech, that he made at his own expense? That sounded very much like a bolt of some kind.

The chief reason why the vice presidency has fallen into disfavor is that the occupant of the office is without political influence and has no voice.

The chief reason why the vice presidency has fallen into disfavor is that the occupant of the office is without political influence and has no voice.

And then the salary isn't anything worth fighting over much.

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Wilmington Star says: It is wasting time and space for newspapers to advocate the nomination of a Southern man for Vice-President on the Democratic ticket this time. The nominee will undoubtedly be from the North—probably from Indiana or Illinois.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel says:

The more one learns of Judge A. H. Parker—of his strong character, his ability and his clean private and public record—the more one is convinced that he would make a first-class President of the United States. He possesses qualities for the office in which Mr. Roosevelt is conspicuously wanting.

Here is the sentiment of the Charlotte Observer:

In declining to serve as Democratic presidential elector, Robert B. Roosevelt, of the University of North Carolina, takes the right course. It would be unbecoming in him to run, as it was unbecoming in the convention to nominate him.

The Greensboro Record says:

This is a greedy country of ours—at least, the people are greedy. There is no hope of recovery, it is true, yet there is already speculation about the election of a man's shoes should not be filled at least until he is put in his coffin. Of course, this talk is put on the ground that he has been in bad health for some time, and that it was known that he would resign, yet it was a speculation, and the announcement of his critical illness.

Are you a citizen of Richmond and a Democrat? If so do not fail to show your interest in the city's welfare by voting to-day.

Half Hour With  
Virginia Editors.

The Petersburg Index-Appel discusses Judge Mann at some length, and in conclusion says:

We do not raise the question as to the right of Judge Mann to make the issue of prohibition in the Democratic party, but we do raise the question as to whether he will be a very strong candidate. As an advocate of a reasonable and well defined regulation of the liquor traffic—by which we do not mean taxation only, but as to hours of closing, sales to minors and drunken men, and kindred matters—he will be a very strong candidate. But if he stands for prohibition, immediately or ultimately, his defeat is one of the certainties of the future.

The Portsmouth Star says: It cannot be possible that the conservative element in the Republican party, which selected the brilliant Blaine for Cleveland, would accept the erratic Roosevelt in place of the sturdy and sensible Taft. Hence the signs are that the Democrats will win on the platform which opposes dishonesty, extravagance and bad faith.

Here's the Marion Democrat's idea: Hearst's boom seems to have collapsed, as it should have done. What he has in the way of ability, wit, energy, or character to qualify him for the highest office in the land, has not been prominently brought before the public.

The Danville Register says:

So far we have not seen any statement as to what sort of cross in which the Hearst people are seeking to crucify the Democratic party. Probably it does not matter. Crucifixion is no more destructive on one sort of cross than it is on another.

A Few Foreign Facts.

The Institute of France has received a bequest from M. Jean Debrosse, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, of considerable of which has been appropriated for the publication of a lunar table.

Cardinal Merry del Val, the papal secretary of state, is strongly supporting the candidature of the Duke of Orleans, and the appointment of bishops of their own nationality, and the Pope has decided to make them concessions, notwithstanding the opposition of certain cardinals.

Prince and Princess Hohenlohe-Schillingher, the former the son of the late Imperial chancellor of that name; the hereditary Prince Victor von Reibitz, his daughter, the princess Elizabeth, and the Prince of Saxe-Weimar, are on the way to St. Louis from Germany to attend the opening of the Exposition.

The King and Queen of England have had their portraits painted by Mr. Velasky, the famous Spanish painter, and given in Buckingham Castle. King Edward is represented in a field marsh's uniform and Queen Alexandra in evening dress.

Mr. Walkley, the well known dramatic critic of the London Times, speaking of the London theatricals, says that the theatre crowd is the embodiment of primitive man. One of the most interesting dramas Mr. Walkley has witnessed was written by a woman; but then, says he, "primitive man is never quite so primitive as when he is a woman."

Personal and General.

Miss Helen Gould has given \$10,000 to a Y. W. C. A. fund to protect girls visiting the World's Fair.

Chief Bemidji, the oldest and one of the best known Indian chieftains of the Northwest, died at Camp Lake, Minn., at the age of eighty-five.

Professor Paul Hanus, who holds the chair of education at Harvard University, will be given leave of absence next year, and will spend the time making a study of foreign systems of school administration.

Ex-President Cleveland and his family will spend a portion of the coming summer at Sandwich, N. H., and there is a probability that the family may establish a permanent summer home in that town.

Episcopal parishes and missions in the Bronx, New York, twenty-six in all, have planned a recreation to Bishop Potter and Bishop Coakley, to be given on the evening of May 17th.

Primaries.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Few things are more dangerous or more harmful than the seeming fairness of a newspaper. A newspaper, when he masquerades as an angel of light, or a hypocrite when he assumes the fair liver of heaven, or a wolf when dressed in the fleece of the gentle creature it has just devoured. All are seeming fair, but all, like Belshazzar, "than whom a fairer show, but not a truer, never was," are "false and hollow and worse."

And what! What more seeming fair? Smell it, how fragrant! taste it, how exhilarating! hold it to the light, what gorgeous golden, ruby hues, surpassing the bow of promise spanning the eastern summer sky! Everything to please, to charm, to delight.

But—ah! that there should be a but to anything so seeming fair—but wine is a "mocker," and at last it "bitch like a serpent and sting like an adder."

Now what more seeming fair than primaries? Come one, come all, is their production, and express your preference freely and the majority shall decide. Nothing fairer. Nothing could be fairer. Indeed, it is fairness itself; that is provided primaries were always, indeed, were generally, managed and controlled by saints—No, not by saints, because saints are too often pinhead, or too often more given to feathering their nests below than to feathering their wings above; but managed and controlled by plain, sensible men who would seem to make merchandise of politics. Under such conditions primaries would be ideal and their approach as to fairness and honesty, yet they would be unnecessary and superfluous and, therefore, vicious economically, but on this point more anon.

It is the men behind the guns and not the guns themselves who win victories, so it is the men behind the primaries, who give character to them, make them honest or dishonest, and so leaving out for the present the question of the ne-



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cessity of wisdom of primaries. Let us consider the kind of men likely to control and manage primaries. Obviously not those considered best men or even better men, because generally they are too busy pushing the fortunes of their community to devote to managing primaries. Naturally and inevitably, therefore, primaries fall under the control of third-rate and under men, men of little or no business, or idle and incompetents so far as useful business is concerned; men short on deed, but long on talk.

In other words, of men who live in part or wholly, mostly wholly by politics; men who have a vital, or at all events a material, pecuniary interest that primaries should go their way, for if they might be ousted and others step into their shoes. In great degree they are like judges trying their own cases. They are interested parties and, "When self the wavering balance holds 'Tis rarely right adjusted."

Primaries too, are not conducted under the strict supervision of the State, but under the loose and easy supervision of politicians and partisans whose convenient maxim is, "as long as I am in, and it's smart to cheat one's political opponent whether of one's household or not."

Considering, therefore, the character of the men who run primaries, and both the temptation and the opportunity to cheat, what else can be expected of primaries but dishonesty, or at least, a general thing unfairness or partiality, but especially when contests are close or heated, and judging by the charges and counter-charges of fraud frequently heard after primaries, facts seem to confirm the expectation, and to prove that primaries, though so seeming fair, are by no means a fair method of reaching public sentiment, but that, on the contrary, they may be and often are made instruments for binding the public in the coils of needy, greedy and unscrupulous politicians.